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TO FARM JOURNAL EDITORS:

The information which follows was selected and arranged for your use.

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The Wise Use of Your Contracted Acres

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(Note--Mr. Cox has written this story exclusively for the
use of farm paper editors.)

What can I do with the land rented to the Government? This question is foremost in the minds of the farmers who sign a cotton contract. A good farmer wants to conform to the spirit and the letter of his contract with the Government, and at the same time use the land to the best possible advantage to himself and to his farm. To do this requires that the farmer study both the limitations and the possibilities under his contract.

It is clearly the intent of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the part of sound national planning that the acreage contracted to be taken out of cotton or wheat or any other production shall not be used in contributing to surpluses of any agricultural product, but the farmer reserves the right himself to determine how to make use of this acreage within the limits allowed, -- and there are many possibilities.

The Secretary of Agriculture has said, "The Act does not contemplate the use of contracted acreage as a means of promoting other farm enterprises which compete with other producers who do not have the advantage of benefit payments." The farmer can not grow any crop on contracted acres for sale, directly or indirectly.

But the contract does permit wide and profitable use of the land. It permits the growing, but not for sale, of crops that are soil-improving or erosion preventing. The cotton contract also permits the growing of food crops for home consumption or feed crops for the production of livestock or livestock products for home use. Of course, the shifting of such crops to the contracted acreage which would normally be grown elsewhere,

thereby releasing other lands for general farm use in producing surplus crops, would be contrary to the purpose of the Act.

The wise farmer, in sizing up the various uses to which he can put his contracted acres, may decide to handle it in various ways, some for food for his family, some for feed for his livestock whose products will be consumed at home, and some for the catching of a permanent pasture seeding, and some for erosion-preventing and soil-building crops, or in the development of a terracing program to control erosion.

Mr. J. Phil Campbell, director of extension at Georgia, now with the replacement crops section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, states that the southern farmer's first consideration will undoubtedly be in the direction of conserving his soil fertility and in providing food for his family's use.

Home vegetable gardens are an important factor in providing an adequate food supply on southern cotton farms. There is need not only for more farm gardens throughout the Cotton Belt, but for the enlarging and improving of existing gardens. Properly managed, the farm garden will contribute between 35 and 40 percent of the family food supply. On many southern cotton farms it is possible to have an all-the-year-around garden and maintain a supply of certain fresh vegetables throughout the winter. This, together with canning, will provide the farm family an abundant supply of vegetables at all times. The primary purpose of the farm vegetable garden, of course, is to grow vegetables for the use of the farm family and not for sale.

Practically all of the garden vegetables may be grown in the Southern states. Asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish, cabbage, kale, broccoli, collards, peas, lima beans, and various root crops such as beets, radishes, carrots, and turnips, together with melons and other vine crops, in addition to tomatoes and sweet corn furnish a very practical harvest from the contracted acreage rented to the Government. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1673, which can be had on application to the state extension service or county agent gives cultural directions for practically every kind of crop grown in home gardens and may be used as a reliable guide to gardening.

Fruit forms an important part of any well regulated diet and the food budget of every southern family should include a liberal supply of such fruits as can be grown economically. The making of jellies and marmalades as well as the canning of fruits as supplemental to the use of fresh fruits provide a practical and profitable addition to the actual income from the farm even though these products may never be sold. The planting of more fruit for home use and the production of an adequate supply of the various fruits to be used for canning and preserving should be encouraged if it is understood that these foods are strictly for home use and not for sale. Bulletins giving directions on the planting, care, varieties, etc., of all kinds of fruits may be obtained from the state extension service, or the county agent.

After the acreage needed for the production of food for the family is used there will still be some left to be used in other ways. The planting of forest trees is one of the methods suggested for using some

of this land, for the double purpose of checking erosion and growing a crop of timber. In most sections of the South there are local markets for such forest products as turpentine, pulpwood, sawlogs, and veneer logs, poles, ties, and fuel. The production of naval stores from long-leaf and slash pines offers farm owners within the range of these trees very good opportunities for an income in a relatively short period of years.

In addition to getting part of the farm living from these contracted acres the wise farmer will give a thought to conserving the fertility of his land, for a good farm should be made better. Provisions of the contract make this possible. Cotton land that has been getting poorer and poorer for years as a result of clean cultivation may now be restored through the growing of soil-improving and erosion-preventing crops. Previously, this meant a cessation of income from such land; it was kept in cultivation for the sake of the income. Now, however, with a rental income for the land coming to the farmer through his rental payments, the land can be restored without loss of income.

Permanent pastures and legume crops for feed may be started on contracted acres where there is a need for more feedstuffs for livestock. Any farmer whose land produces less than half a bale of cotton per acre will make a serious mistake if he does not plant the contracted acres in lespedeza, cowpeas, soybeans, or other adapted legume crops. There is a legume suitable for almost every part of the Cotton Belt. Lespedeza is very widely adapted and there is an abundance of lespedeza seed available. The method of seeding is simple and the time of planting will range from January 15 to March 15. Dallas grass and carpet grass are increasing in use as permanent pasture grasses.

The great benefit from the cotton contract comes in an increased price on cotton, resulting in additional income. However, by the wise use of the contracted acres additional benefits of lasting effect, that will not cause surpluses in other fields, can be achieved. Benefit payments under the cotton contract will more than pay for constructive planning and work which every farmer in the South wants to do in order to improve his land so that he can grow his money crops on improved soil and make his labor produce more.

The South has the best chance it has ever had to begin the development of a planned and sound system of farming. Examples of this kind of farming are numerous and they prove that a full measure of well-being and security can be secured from the cultivated lands of the South.

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Northwest Wheat Exports

A Midwestern farm journal editor inquired about the Government's plan for exporting surplus wheat from the Pacific Northwest, the growers to receive the domestic price even though the wheat is sold at a loss abroad. "From what funds will this premium be paid? Are not the Northwest wheat growers cooperating in the wheat adjustment program and receiving their benefit payment the same as wheat growers everywhere, and if so, are they entitled to any additional benefits such as proposed in this agreement?"

As a result of a big 1933 wheat crop in the Pacific Northwest on top of a 25 million bushel surplus there carried over from last year, wheat was selling at distress prices in the Northwest and was coming through the Canal into Southeastern and Atlantic states with a depressing effect on the entire domestic price level.

A plan for exporting some of this surplus was developed, based on an agreement between the Secretary of Agriculture and an association called the North Pacific Emergency Export Association, whereby up to 35 million bushels would be bought from producers in the Northwest and exported, the Government to absorb the loss between the domestic buying price of the wheat and the selling price on the foreign markets, this loss to come out of the processing tax on wheat. All the operations of handling and exporting the wheat would be conducted through regular channels already established, the exporters being allowed to have a reasonable fixed profit margin to cover their own costs.

Up to December 30, which is about two and a half months since the first wheat was bought under the Agreement, the Association had bought about 10,500,000 bushels and had sold in the export market about 9,750,000. The average spread between purchases and sales figures about 21 cents per bushel, which is paid out of the processing tax on wheat.

When the plan was first discussed No. 1 Soft White wheat was selling, basis delivered Portland, at about 26 cents per bushel under the Chicago December price. On December 30 the Association was bidding only 6 cents under the Chicago price for this same wheat.

The plan has afforded relief to the producers in the Pacific Northwest and has prevented the low price wheat from competing throughout the United States with the depressing influence it would have had everywhere.

On December 21, the Association sold some wheat for export at 47 cents a bushel. Had this been Kansas wheat going for export from New Orleans or Galveston it would have meant about 20 cents to the Kansas producer, and even though Kansas wheat would sell for five cents more per bushel than the Pacific Coast variety it would still mean only about 25 cents to the Kansas farmer. But on that same date No. 2 Hard wheat sold on the Kansas City market at a price which figures back to the same Kansas farm producer at 62 cents, or 37 cents more than the export price.

This plan for exporting should not be considered as a permanent policy of the Government. It is working well and has succeeded but was put into effect only as an emergency relief operation and when it has performed its stated object it will cease to exist. It is not a stabilizing effort. The Export Association is not authorized to export any fixed amount, simply some amount up to 35 million bushels. It may never have on hand more than a million bushels at a time; it may not buy more than it has definite prospects for sale for export.

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Dairy Producers
Favor Production Control

A long stride toward definitely achieving a program of production control for the dairy industry was taken recently when a committee from the National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation and allied cooperative marketing associations agreed to support any practical suggestions worked out by the Federal Government to help dairymen adjust production uniformly throughout the country.

The producers' committee asked for a definite allotment plan to be used in connection with processing taxes and benefit payments, this to be supplemented by a program of indemnities for condemned tubercular and other diseased cattle. They further asked that such processing taxes on milk and butterfat be accompanied by compensating taxes on competing products, including oleomargarine.

The committee declared that producers would be ready and willing to follow leadership in the direction of rigid and practical production control, because they realize the markets are unable to absorb the burdensome supplies at prices enabling farmers to meet advanced costs.

This attitude is in line with a recently announced policy of the Adjustment Administration to the effect that fluid milk marketing agreements to be adopted in the future will be conditioned on pledges made by producers' associations in the market that they will participate fully in the national production control program.

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Wheat County, U. S. A.

Whitman County, Washington, is the largest wheat producing county in the United States. Last week the County Acceptance Unit of the Wheat Section, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, approved the contracts for the payment of Whitman County's checks.

The checks to this one county total \$1,177,000, for the first payment now being made, or an average of more than \$610 for each of the 1925 wheat growers who cooperated in the Government's production control plan. The two payments total more than the amount of the entire county taxes for the whole county for 1933. In addition to these benefit payments the 1925 wheat growers have the wheat to sell, the wheat from 442,000 acres, or an average acreage of 229 acres of wheat per farmer who contracted.

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Cotton Option Contracts and Farm Credit Loans

The Farm Credit Administration has arranged to accept payments made in settlement of cotton option contracts in cases where producers who are borrowers from the various agencies of that Administration voluntarily transfer their interests in such payments.

County agents have been requested by the Farm Credit Administration to assist the field supervisors in carrying out the program of securing the transfers. Primarily, the county agents' cooperation will be necessary in handling checks payable to borrowers who have signed "Exercise of Cotton Option and Pool Agreement."

In order to permit the Farm Credit Administration to obtain the proceeds of such checks, three documents have been provided: (1) A Power of Attorney, to be executed by the borrower, authorizing the Governor of the Farm Credit Administration to receive, endorse and collect pool payment checks; (2) an agreement entitled "Authority to Farm Credit Administration", to be executed by the borrower and the Field Supervisor of the Farm Credit Administration; and (3) a Request to county agents, to be signed by the borrower, directing the agent to deliver his check to the field supervisor.

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Advise Farmers To
Get Seed Wheat Early

The following suggestion is being handed to farmers in the spring wheat area as they receive their wheat benefit checks. George E. Farrell, associate chief of the wheat section, also points out that although the second wheat payment is 8 cents a bushel on each farmer's allotment, a part of this will be deducted to pay the local expenses of the county wheat production control association.

DO YOU HAVE SEED WHEAT FOR YOUR 1934 CROP?

If not, it is suggested that this is the very best time to provide whatever seed wheat you will need. Buying seed wheat NOW assures you of a supply to carry out the provisions of your Wheat Allotment Contract. It is anticipated that you will use whatever part of the wheat adjustment check that is necessary to purchase your seed wheat.

The supply of good seed wheat is not large and it is suggested that you write to your County Agent if you need his help. The Extension Service at your Agricultural College has set up an organization to assist farmers in securing the proper variety at reasonable prices.

If you will need to purchase other farm seed for 1934, now is a good time to do so.

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No Special Privilege

A Western farm journal editors writes: "Is it true that some of the Oklahoma and Kansas wheat was in before the contracts were signed and that the wheat was allowed to stay in on the proviso that it could be used for pasture hay or plowed up in the spring in order to get down to the proper figure?"

No exceptions or privileges were extended to wheat growers in any section that would permit an acreage larger than permitted in the contract to stand.

